

AUG 17 2016

EPA-REGION 10

U.S. EPA
ATTN: Harbor Comments
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

I do not want to see the people of Portland suffer as a result of the EPA's proposal for decontaminating the Willamette. It's ill-advised and too expensive to move forward with dredging the Willamette riverbed in Portland. The contamination rate in the riverbed was reduced by almost half in the ten years between 2004 and 2014 without invasive dredging. It makes absolutely no sense to go into an area that is already recovering just to disturb the progress and create more problems for everyone.

Instead of spending anywhere from \$746 million to over a billion dollars on an overly aggressive project, we could be using that money to help lower taxes and put more disposable income into people's pockets and improve education. It's possible that taking on this project will raise taxes and increase utility costs for area residents. As a retiree, I'd have to find a way to cut back to cover the increases, and I'm not alone.

Dredging will cause an economic disturbance that will affect the port and all of the businesses and shops along the harbor and the waterfront for a ten-mile stretch. Considering how long the dredging is supposed to last, a minimum of seven years, but possibly several decades, that's not an economic hit we can afford to take. Gunderson's is down there working on rail cars and barges, helping our economy and providing jobs. The ship repair and shipbuilding businesses are very critical to this area. When people lose jobs and incomes fall, crime goes up. We already have problems to deal with in Portland, and we cannot afford to compound them.

The plan for the Willamette is much more invasive and costly than other plans that have been put in place for Superfund Sites elsewhere. There is no reason that we should have stricter standards than anyone else. We would be better off with a more versatile plan that incorporates more locals. Such a plan is more likely to be more fiscally responsible and to have our needs and interests in mind.

This isn't the time to move forward with a project with so many unknowns and potentially huge negatives for the citizens in Portland. Big government and the people who support it need to let those of us who will have to deal with the consequences make the right decisions for our community. I've lived in Portland my whole life, and I know the Willamette well. The current EPA proposal will not do, and we need to develop a better solution for the city of Portland.

Sincerely,

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Portland, OR, 97216